



Weights and Measures Skimmer Education Seminar

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Good morning!

Most of you might remember on July 17th I directed the Arizona Department of Weights and Measures to increase their inspection efforts, and be on the lookout for credit card “skimming” devices at gas pumps after they received several inquiries and recent incidents had been reported.

Specifically, my directive called on several important new consumer protection initiatives to be implemented, including:

The Department was to increase the amount of inspections being conducted on gas pumps by state investigators to specifically check for “skimmers.” In that regard, I am pleased to report Weights and Measures has “upped” their gas station inspection schedule for the next year, by fifteen percent over last year.

I asked for the Department to increase the training and education of its investigators to better understand the latest technology being used and how to best detect any skimmers at the gas pumps.

In addition to today’s program, I’m pleased that the department followed through by recently providing general training to staff at their headquarters to review gas pump technology and skimmers.

My directive also instructed the Weights and Measures Department to reach out to the petroleum marketing industry to collaborate on detection practices going forward.

Additionally, I called on the Department to aggressively work with law enforcement on ways to increase our communication and notification process -- should any evidence of illegal activity be found.

Which brings us to today's important education seminar.

Today, we've assembled the primary forces who will help Arizona combat these crimes and increase detection of credit card skimmers at gas stations.

The audience today includes representatives from the private and public sector:

From the private sector, we have representatives including some of the actual licensed technicians whom the service stations rely on to fix gas pumps; and we also have some of the petroleum market industry's security and risk management personnel who coordinate internal investigations and are directly working with law enforcement to combat such crimes.

We have several local law enforcement officers here who have first-hand experience working such criminal investigations in Arizona; and I appreciate their participation in today's seminar.

And finally, we, of course, also have the state investigators from the Department of Weights and Measures who are regularly auditing and inspecting the gas stations all over the state of Arizona.

Let me take a moment to also thank Andrea Martincic, Executive Director of the Arizona Petroleum Marketing Association, for her personal involvement and help in moving forward with this effort.

Let me also thank Director Tyne, of the Department of Weights and Measures for overseeing the implementation of my directive and helping put together today's seminar.

And I'd like to thank the panelists whom you will hear from -- and hopefully take away much information from today.

Thanks to:

--John A. Koleno, Acting Special Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service - Phoenix Field Office. The Secret Service is where most of the credit card skimmer evidence is turned over to in Arizona.

--Virgil Sandoval & Scott Rampton, of Gilbarco -- Gilbarco is one of the manufacturers that produces gas pumps for use here in Arizona.

--Jennifer B. Fadiman, Manager -- Wright Express Corporation, Fraud Services Division. This company provides commercial and government vehicle fleet industry with "fuel

cards." They specifically capture transaction data at more than one hundred and eighty thousand fuel and vehicle maintenance locations, including over ninety percent of the nation's retail fuel locations.

Today's seminar is an important step in combating credit and debit card fraud here in Arizona. I'm very pleased to have forged this public/private partnership ... where government regulators, law enforcement, and private industry are all coming together to increase detection and find ways to better combat against such criminal activity in our state.

I don't take for granted that these types of crimes at gas stations are more prevalent in neighboring states like California and Nevada.

Nevertheless, we must remain vigilant against such criminal activity here at home.

Recently, I saw a report from last year showing that fraud involving credit and debit cards rose by seven percent nationwide, with estimates of as much as ten billion dollars from such fraudulent crimes predicted by 2015.

That same report indicated that debit card spending may account for as much as two-thirds of all transaction in this country by 2013.

As I said back in July when I issued my directive:

Such criminal devices like gas pump "skimmers" can cause great harm to Arizona consumers who can unknowingly be victimized, and it is important to do what we can to protect citizens from such potential identity theft schemes or other criminal activity.

I intend to see that our citizens are protected, and that identity thieves are caught, prosecuted and punished.

Today's collaboration of industry, law enforcement, and state regulators, all coming forward and working together will only increase the protection of consumers here in Arizona.

Thanks to all of you for making that kind of effort on our behalf.

Thank you.